

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NIC-01 VO-03 SCA-01 SCS-03 SR-02 ORM-03 NEA-14

DRC-01 /142 W

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R 291554Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9244

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS UR US PFOR PINT SREF CASC CGEN

SUBJECT: USG REPRESENTATION LIST 16 - STATUS REPORT

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

REF: MOSCOW 4731

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN TWO MONTHS SINCE AMBASSADOR'S PRESENTATION OF USG EXIT VISA REPRESENTATION LIST 16 (REFTEL), RESULTS ARE LIMITED. ONLY INDICATION OF IMPROVEMENT OVER DISAPPOINTING RESULTS IN PAST IN THIS HUMANITARIAN AREA OF BILATERAL RELATIONS IS IN ARMENIA. EXIT PERMISSION HAS BEEN REFUSED ANEW IN LARGE NUMBER OF LONG-STANDING DIVIDED FAMILY CASES IN OTHER AREAS OF USSR, AND RESULTS ARE PARTICULARLY DISAPPOINTING IN BALTIC REPUBLICS AND RFSFR. PROGRESS ALSO REMAINS MINIMAL IN AMERICAN CITIZEN REPATRIATION CASES. END SUMMARY.

2. FAMILY REUNIFICATION: IN TWO MONTHS SINCE AMBASSADOR'S APRIL 1 PRESENTATION OF MOST RECENT USG LIST OF US-USSR FAMILY REUNIFICATION CASES (REFTEL), EXIT PERMISSION HAS BEEN RECEIVED
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IN 40 OF 274 CASES ON LIST (14 PERCENT). BULK OF RESOLVED

CASES, HOWEVER, CONSISTS OF A) THOSE RECEIVING EXIT VISAS WHILE LIST WAS UNDER PREPARATION; B) FIRST-TIME JEWISH APPLICANTS FOR EXIT PERMISSION; AND, C) ARMENIAN CASES. LATTER CATEGORY CONSTITUTES ONLY HINT OF POSSIBLE PROGRESS AS RECENTLY RESOLVED CASES IN ARMENIA (12 OF 33 ON LIST) INCLUDE SEVERAL LONG-STANDING CLOSE FAMILY SEPARATIONS. OTHER RESOLVED CASES ON NEW LIST INCLUDE 1 OF 11 IN BELORUSSIA, 1 OF 3 IN MOLDAVIA, 7 OF 31 IN RSFSR (FOUR JEWISH, TWO OF WHICH RECEIVED EXIT PERMISSION TO ISRAEL, AND THREESPOUSE CASES), AND 19 OF 142 IN UKRAINE (18 JEWISH, MOSTLY NEW CASES, AND ONE REPATRIATED AMCIT). NONE RPT NONE OF 41 CASES IN BALTIC AREAS HAVE BEEN RESOLVED. ALTHOUGH EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL FROM BALTIC AREAS IS REPORTED TO BE PROCEEDING AT HIGH LEVEL, JEWISH CASES ON USG LIST (AT LEAST 17 OF 41, JUDGING BY NAMES) FARE NO BETTER THAN BALTIC FELLOW APPLICANTS TO US. EXIT REFUSALS HAVE ALSO BEEN RENEWED IN FOUR ARMENIAN CASES ON USG LIST IN LATVIA, DESPITE FACT THAT MEMBERS OF SAME FAMILIES RESIDING YEREVAN HAVE RECEIVED EXIT PERMISSION. PERMISSION ALSO CONTINUES TO BE DENIED IN A NUMBER OF DIVIDED SPOUSE CASES IN BALTICS; SOVIET SPOUSE IN ONE CASE, (ADA SALNA-LATVIA), FOR EXAMPLE, INFORMED EMBASSY MAY 28 THAT OVIR AUTHORITIES STATED THAT HER EXIT APPLICATION TO JOIN HUSBAND IN US CANNOT BE CONSIDERED UNTIL AT LEAST 1975.

3. AMCIT REPATRIATION: PROGRESS ALSO REMAINS MINIMAL IN CASES OF AMERICAN CITIZENS RESIDENT USSR LONG SEEKING SOVIET EXIT PERMISSION FOR REPATRIATION. (IN ADDITION TO THEIR INCLUSION IN FAMILY REUNIFICATION LIST, AMBASSADOR PRESENTED SPECIAL LIST OF TWELVE REPATRIATION CASES TO FIRST DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KUZNETSOV MARCH 12.) EXIT PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED ONLY IN CASE OF OHIO-BORN NICHOLAS BENKO, CULMINATING 27-YEAR REPATRIATION EFFORT. EXIT REFUSALS WERE RENEWED RECENTLY IN FOUR REPATRIATION CASES (ISABEL MELCONIAN, JOHN JODWALKIS, LORRAINE VAIC-EKAUSKENE AND NICHOLAS ROSHKO), WHILE SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAVE GIVEN NO RECENT REPLY IN SEVEN OTHER CASES. AS IN FAMILY REUNIFICATION AREA, SOVIET AUTHORITIES IN BALTIC HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY UNYIELDING; AMBASSADOR'S LIST OF 12 INCLUDES SIX STILL UNRESOLVED AMCIT CASES IN BALTICS, ONE OF WHICH (ELEANOR IECHEPENE) DATES BACK TO 1944. FYI: MRS. MARIJA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SULSKIENE/KUDIRKA NOW REPRESENTS SEVENTH SUCH CASE.

4. COMMENT: CONSOFFS PRESENTED EMBASSY NOTE TOMFA MAY 13 REITERATING OUR APPEAL FOR GREATER PROGRESS IN HUMANITARIAN AREA OF BILATERAL RELATIONS AND CITING SOME 25 RECENTLY RENEWED REFUSALS IN EXIT VISA CASES PRESENTED BY USG (MOSCOW 7069). AT RECENT DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION, CONSOFFS MADE SIMILAR APPEAL TO ALL-UNION OVIR DIRECTOR VEREIN AND MOSCOW OVIR DIRECTOR

FADEYEV. ALTHOUGH MFA OFFICIALS (CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION),
VEREIN AND FADEYEV PROFESSED TO BE MAKING SERIOUS EFFORT TO BRING
ABOUT GREATER PROGRESS, EMBASSY REMAINS CONVINCED THAT ONLY
A HIGH LEVEL USG APPROACH WILL BRING ABOUT THE IMPETUS REQUIRED
FOR FORWARD MOVEMENT IN THIS US-SOVIET HUMANITARIAN AREA.
ENCOURAGING RESULTS IN ARMENIA INDICATE, IN EMBASSY VIEW,
THAT AT LEAST A LARGE NUMBER OF THESE LONG-STANDING CASES ARE
READILY RESOLVABLE IF AUTHORITIES SET THEIR MIND TO IT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JEWS, PROGRESS REPORTS, EXIT VISAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOSCOW08098
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740135-0505
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740511/aaaaajcz.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MOSCOW 4731
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUN 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USG REPRESENTATION LIST 16 - STATUS REPORT GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE
TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, PINT, SREF, CASC, CGEN, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005